

STURMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



Annual Report of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year
1963



Medical Officer of Health : NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector : F. HODSON, F.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E., M.I.P.H.E.

Council Offices
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

25th May, 1964.

To The Chairman and Members,
Sturminster Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1963.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959.

Allowing for the smallness of the figures under consideration the vital statistics compare favourably with those for the country as a whole.

There was an increased incidence of measles during the middle two quarters of the year.

I am indebted to Mr. Hodson for his co-operation and help during the year and for his assistance in preparing this report, and to my clerk Miss J. Shirley for her efficient services during the year.

May I also acknowledge the happy co-operation and assistance I always obtain from your Clerk, Mr. Harris, your Housing Manager, Miss Bradley and all the members of your staff.


Finally, I would like to thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

John J. G. G. G.

Medical Officer of Health.



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STURMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR

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- A. Area - 45,364 acres
 Rateable value: 1st April 1964 - £210,855
 Production of a penny rate: 1st April 1963/64 - £804 (est)
 1964/65 - £833 (est)

Vital Statistics

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 9,930

LIVE BIRTHS

			<u>Comparative Rates</u>	
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	(a)Sturminster R.D.C.	(b)England & Wales
Total	69	66	Rate per 1,000	
Legitimate	69	66	resident pop:	
Illegitimate	-	-	= 13.5	
			17.28	18.2

STILLBIRTHS

Total	4	2	Rate per 1,000	
(Legitimate)			live & still-	
			births= 42.5	
			42.5	17.3

DEATHS

Total	80	88	Rate per 1,000	
			resident pop:	
			= 14.3	
			10.2	12.2

Deaths in Infants

Under 1 year	2	1	Infantile death	
Under 4 weeks	1	1	rate per 1,000	
Under 1 week	1	1	live births	
(Legitimate)			= 22.2	
			22.2	20.9

		<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1960</u>
Deaths from	Maternal Causes	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
"	" Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
"	" Cancer of the Lungs	3	3	4	3
"	" Other Cancer	20	15	13	12
"	" Coronary Disease(Angina)	25	26	24	21
"	" Other heart or circulatory disease	59	72	61	74
"	" Pneumonia	9	15	9	3
"	" Motor vehicle accidents	Nil	1	1	1
"	" All other accidents	2	4	1	1
"	" Suicide	1	Nil	2	Nil
"	" Leukaemia & Aleukemia	Nil	Nil	1	2
"	" Influenza	Nil	1	9	Nil

B. Nature of the District

The district is essentially agricultural in character and apart from glove making, both in factory and the home, the principal trades and industries are those associated with agriculture. They include, cheese making, saw milling, the slaughter of animals for 'export' meat and broiler chicken production and processing.

C. Health Services in the District which are not the responsibility of the District Council

Hospital coverage for the district is shared by the Yeatman Hospital at Sherborne, the Dorset County Hospital (both of the West Dorset Hospital Group) together with the Blandford Hospital and the Poole General Hospital (of the Bournemouth and East Dorset Hospital Group) of the Wessex Regional Hospital Board.

Laboratory Services

The Public Health Laboratory Service has once again proved co-operative, helpful and efficient.

General Medical Practitioner, Ophthalmic and Pharmaceutical Services

These are administered locally by the Dorset Executive Committee.

County Council Services

The personal preventive health services are the responsibility of the County Council.

They comprise, the care of mothers and young children, maternity, school health, home nursing, mental health, the ambulance service, the care and after care of the tuberculous, blind, handicapped, health education, the domestic help service and the welfare of the aged.

The assistance provided by the domestic home help service is of such incalculable benefit to the needy old people, that it is difficult to recall how these people managed before this service was instituted.

Voluntary Services

Acknowledgment must again be made to the excellent voluntary work carried out in the district by the British Red Cross Society, to the Sturminster Voluntary Old People's Welfare Committee and to the Sturminster Silver Thread Club.

During the year the Womens Voluntary Service started a meals-on-wheels service in the district. So far only the parish of Marnhull has been in a position to benefit from this service. It is sincerely hoped that voluntary workers will be forthcoming to allow the service to be extended to other parishes in the district.

Not only are the meals appreciated by the old people but even more (one sometimes thinks) are the twice weekly visits by helpers who take the meals around.

Prevention of Disease

Prophylactic Inoculations

Preventive inoculation against disease is the responsibility of the County Council through the school medical, child welfare and medical practitioner services.

An immunisation clinic was held regularly at the Sturminster Newton Clinic on the second Monday in the month from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

During the year the following treatments were carried out -

	<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1961</u>
<u>Poliomyelitis</u>			
Two treatments (Salk)	6	36	373
Three treatments (Salk or	219	356	385
Four treatments Oral)	154	41	645
<u>Diphtheria</u>			
Primary treatments	80	143	124
Booster treatments	82	74	122
<u>Whooping Cough</u>			
Primary treatments	79	136	117
Booster treatments	48	24	33
<u>Tetanus</u>			
Primary treatments	98	214	177
Booster treatments	78	77	73
<u>Smallpox</u>			
Primary vaccinations	29	397	93
Re-vaccinations	19	690	8

D. Environmental Health Services

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health (Part time) - Noel F. Pearson
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

He also acts as Medical Officer of Health to four other District Councils in the North Dorset area and as Assistant County Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council.

The time available which he has to devote to his duties with your Council is one half day per week.

Chief Public Health Inspector - F. Hodson, F.A.P.H.I.,
M.I.P.H.E., M.R.S.H.

Assistant Public Health Inspector - L.G. Ringrow,
M.A.P.H.I.

Both Public Health Inspectors are engaged full time on sanitary duties and meat inspection. The Senior Inspector is also responsible for refuse collection and disposal and the administration of Improvement Grants.

Clerical Staff - Part time clerk and typing assistance from typing pool.

WATER SUPPLY

The Poole and East Dorset Water Board have responsibility for the public water supplies in the district.

There has been close co-operation between the officers of the Board and your Public Health Officers. Copies of reports of water samples taken by the Board's Officers are sent to my office and similarly, reports of samples taken by your Officers are sent to the Board.

Quantity

Apart from unavoidable difficulties due to the severe weather conditions during the early part of the year when service pipes, and in some instances, mains, became frozen, supplies have been adequate in quantity throughout the year.

Household Supplies

Only a handful of houses throughout the district lack a mains piped water supply into the house and with the exception of the small parishes of Woolland and Ibberton and six houses in Glanvilles Wootton the mains supply is from the Water Board's Mains supply.

Quality

Weekly samples for bacteriological examination of all the Board's supplies at source were taken by the Board. Your officers took spot check samples of the mains supplies in the course of distribution.

The condition of the public supplies remained satisfactory.

Private Supplies

The parishes of Woolland and Stoke Wake are supplied by private supplies which have remained bacteriologically satisfactory. The small private supplies to six houses in the parish of Glanvilles Wootton have been of less satisfactory quality.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

All the major parishes have got adequate sewerage schemes and no serious nuisances in the district exist due to the lack of such schemes.

A small extension of the Kings Stag scheme and of the Sturminster Newton scheme to include the Broad Oak area were authorised during the year.

Cesspool Emptying

The cesspool emptying service provided by the Council under section 76 of the Public Health Act, 1936 operated by contract, has continued to operate reasonably satisfactorily.

The one principal difficulty encountered is the satisfactory disposal of the contents of the cesspools, a considerable amount having to be disposed of in lagoons provided at the sewage works for the development of sewage sludge which, in itself, is a problem.

Consideration is to be given to the practicability of overcoming these difficulties by a combination of refuse disposal by pulverisation with sludge disposal.

Complaints have again been received with regard to smell nuisance arising during the emptying of blood tanks at the Bath Road slaughterhouse.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

A fortnightly curbside collection (with a weekly trade refuse collection in Sturminster Newton) has continued during the year.

Our present tip now has a life of a few years only and efforts to secure an alternative tipping site have met with some success, though no final decision had been taken by the end of the year.

Public Cleansing (Cont.)

One of the problems we have had at the Fifehead Neville tip is that it has been difficult to obtain adequate supplies of covering material. Excavating equipment has been employed to dig out tipping channels, and some covering material has been obtained as a result of this, but we have had to rely on what could be obtained from outside sources. Usually we find that when this is available the tip is not in a condition to receive it, invariably due to bad weather conditions. It is hoped that favourable consideration will be given to a proposal to pulverise refuse at our new tipping site wherever it may be, as this will permit disposal without having to worry about covering material.

Salvage The following amounts of salvage have been sold during the year:-

Paper £26. Other £26

The market for waste paper has shown a very marked drop during the year.

RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION

The only incidence which came to notice during the year was pollution of Chivericks Brook, Manston from slaughterhouse effluent.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 (Nil figures not given)

	<u>No. of Prem- ises on Register</u>	<u>Inspec- tions</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	9
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	47	53
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	22	25
Total -	74	87
<hr/>		
	<u>No. of cases in which defects were -</u>	
	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Sanitary Conveniences -		
Unsuitable or defective	2	2

Factories Act, 1937 (Cont.)

No. of outworkers - (Glove making) - 50

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

No action was called for or taken during the year.

SWIMMING BATHS

There are no swimming baths in the district to which the public have access, but a number of private swimming pools are in use. There has been an increase in the number of small swimming baths provided at schools. Those at County Schools are supervised by the County Health Department, and those at private schools are visited by your Public Health Inspectors.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

No action was called for or taken during the year.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES

There are ten licensed caravan sites in the district. All these were for use by individual caravans. There are no large caravan sites in the district licensed by the District Council.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

During the year, the following infestations have been dealt with -

Fly Infestations	-	1
Ants	-	2

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee of which the Sturminster Rural District Council is one of the six constituent authorities, continued to carry out the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The total number of inspections made under the Act in the district was 518 and 443 treatments were carried out, compared with 503 and 375 respectively during the previous year.

There have been reports from certain parts of the country that rats and mice have shown signs of immunity towards Warfarin though no such immunity has been noticed in this particular area.

There are, at the moment, signs that the wild mink population may be increasing.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There are no premises subject to registration under the above-mentioned Act within the district.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

No premises in the district are subject to registration under the Act.

SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS)

A constantly high standard of hygiene has been maintained at school canteens, and there are no particular matters to report relating to school sanitation.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 & 1951 - Section 47

Once again, I am pleased to report that no statutory action was required to be taken during the year under these Acts for the compulsory removal of an old person requiring care and attention to an Institution.

HOUSING

No. of houses in the district 3,415

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year	<u>259</u>
No. of inspections made	<u>464</u>
No. of informal notices served	<u>13</u>
No. of informal notices complied with	<u>7</u>
No. of statutory notices served	<u>Nil</u>
No. of statutory notices complied with	<u>Nil</u>
No. of houses reported under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1958	<u>1</u>
Action taken by the Local Authority in respect of such houses -	
Demolition Orders made	<u>1</u>
Undertakings accepted for -	
Closure	<u>Nil</u>
Reconditioning	<u>Nil</u>
Other Action	<u>Nil</u>

Housing (Cont)

No. of houses included in Clearance Areas during the year _____ Nil

Overcrowding

No case of statutory overcrowding was found during the year.

Slum Clearance

There are few houses in the district which remain 'unfit' within the statutory definition of unfitness and slum clearance therefore presents no problem.

New Housing

Fifteen new houses were built during the year by private enterprise. Four houses were built by the Council.

At the end of the year good progress had been made in replacement of the ten prefabricated dwellings at Stalbridge with eighteen new two bedroomed bungalows, well designed and equipped for use by older people.

A central site was acquired in Sturminster Newton, ideal for the erection of a further group of old people's dwellings.

Houses Let in Lodgings

No houses are known to be let in lodgings

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

No applications were received during the year for certificates of disrepair under the above-mentioned Act.

Improvement Grants

Twenty three applications were received during the year in respect to standard and twenty one in respect to discretionary, grants compared with forty five and two respectively, during the preceding year.

Rehousing

During the year Sixty families were rehoused by the Council. At the end of the year there were one hundred and sixteen applicants on the waiting list.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

The efficiency of a public health department can be measured by the extent to which the supervision of premises where food is prepared or sold

is carried out. Where such premises cannot be inspected at least twice a year, with any necessary follow up visits, the department is failing to carry out its minimal duty. I am pleased to report that this standard has been maintained in your district.

As a result of regular inspection there has been a marked improvement in the standard of food premises in the district. This has been achieved without statutory action and is due to the tact and persistence of your Assistant Public Health Inspector.

1. Milk

Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

No. of 'dealers' subject to registration by the District Council Nil

No. of 'dairies' in the district subject to registration 6

No. of 'distributors' subject to registration 11

Samples

Forty samples of milk were taken and submitted for examination during the year.

Complaints were received with regard to the delivery of milk in unclean bottles from a dairy outside the district. Members of the Public Health Committee visited and inspected the dairy. No further action was taken.

2. Other Food Premises

The number of food premises in the area, by type of business:-

Hotels, restaurants, cafes and boarding houses	<u>39</u>
Canteens - School and workplace	<u>17</u>
Confectioners	<u>14</u>
Meat and Fish	<u>11</u>
Grocers	<u>35</u>
Mixed stores	<u>41</u>
Boarding Schools and other residential institutions	<u>5</u>
Food factories	<u>2</u>
Stalls	<u>4</u>
Other	<u>9</u>

No. of food premises subject to registration under section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 in respect of -

Ice Cream	<u>48</u>
Sausages & Prepared Meats	<u>11</u>
Fish & Chips	<u>2</u>
Cooked Chicken	<u>1</u>

Inspection and Supervision of Food Supplies
(Continued)

No. of such premises inspected during
the year - All premises and mobile
shops

No. of inspections carried out 885

Food Inspection

One hundred and forty five samples were taken of meat or parts of carcasses in the slaughterhouses and at butchers shops. Nine of these showed evidence of bacteriological contamination and the meat was condemned. Four of the samples related to a couple of vats of salted ox tongue. Seventy five samples of sausages and sausage meat were taken, one of which proved positive to organisms of the salmonella group. Eighteen samples were taken of meat from the knackers yard at Stourton Caundle but only three showed evidence of salmonellae.

Slaughterhouses

There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the district.

Unsuccessful legal proceedings were instituted against one of the slaughterhouses in respect to the removal from the slaughterhouse of unfit meat which had not been sterilised and failure to maintain satisfactory drainage at the slaughterhouse.

When a slaughterhouse is licensed (as suitable for use as a slaughterhouse) or the licence is renewed, no limitation can be placed on the number of animals which can be slaughtered there. This is unfortunate, in so far as no action can be taken where the 'throughput' is too great for the facilities provided until conditions are so unsatisfactory that a successful prosecution under the Byelaws becomes a reasonable proposition.

Meat Inspection

A full years working of the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963 has been experienced. The Regulations have increased considerably the amount of time spent at the slaughterhouses to enable a 100% inspection to be carried out.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	463	1,841	9,171	369	10
Number Inspected	463	1,841	9,151	369	10
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	78	68	22	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	85	1,351	689	160	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	19.00	77.67	8.27	49.32	20.00
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	1	-	-	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	.04	-	-	10.00
<u>Cycistercosis</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	21	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	6	18	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

In addition to the above animals, 24 goats were slaughtered and inspected, only one part carcase being contaminated.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS (INCLUDING HOUSING)
CARRIED OUT

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	3,280
Total No. of informal notices served	30
Total No. of informal notices complied with	19
Total No. of statutory notices served	Nil
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	Nil
No. of prosecutions	4

E. RADIATION HAZARDS

What information has been made available with regard to the results of monitoring background radiation from nuclear fall out, by Central Departments suggests that no deterioration has taken place in the position.

F. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

Other than tuberculosis -

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases</u> <u>Notified</u>
Measles	117
Pneumonia	4
Whooping Cough	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Erysipelas	1
Dysentery	1

Tuberculosis -

<u>New Cases Notified</u>	
<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory</u>
3	1

Food Poisoning

No cases of suspected food poisoning were notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON
Medical Officer of Health.

